



Learning Loss

Summary of Tennessee Learning Loss and Student Acceleration Act

for Teachers

The COVID-19 pandemic caused school closures throughout Tennessee that resulted in lost classroom time for students. Teachers have worked tirelessly through adverse circumstances to support their students throughout the pandemic. In recognition of those efforts, on January 22, 2021, the Tennessee state legislature took bold action to create and fund new summer learning opportunities for students to help make up for disrupted classroom time.

These programs provide an important opportunity for participating teachers to provide additional instruction for students while receiving meaningful compensation and professional development.

Programming

Starting this summer, all school districts in Tennessee will offer in-person learning loss remediation and student acceleration programs, including **summer learning camps, after-school learning mini-camps, and learning loss bridge camps.**

Summer Learning Camps (Summer 2021 and Summer 2022 ONLY)

- 6 hours of daily programming
- Daily programming must include 4 hours of reading and math instruction (with at least one hour of this block dedicated to math and at least one hour for reading), one hour of intervention, and one hour of physical activity or “play.”
- Students entering grades 1 through 5
- 5 days per week for 6 weeks

Learning Loss Bridge Camps (Summer 2021 and Summer 2022)

- 6 hours of daily programming
- Daily programming must include 4 hours of reading and math instruction (with at least one hour of this block dedicated to math and at least one hour for reading), one hour of intervention, and one hour of physical activity or “play.”
- Students who are entering grades 6-8
- 5 days per week for 4 weeks



After School Summer Learning Mini Camps (Summer 2021 and Summer 2022)

- These are also known as “STREAM” Mini Camps. (STREAM is “Science Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts, and Math)
- One hour of programming focused on a STREAM educational approach
- Students entering grades 1 through 5
- 4 days per week for six weeks provided by a licensed teacher or TN ALL Corps member

Staffing and Support

- All staff for the learning loss remediation programs will receive stipends.
- Classroom teachers will receive a weekly stipend of no less than \$1,000 per week and no more than 25% above the weekly compensation rate for the highest salary step for teachers in their district.
- Instructional staff will have the opportunity to participate in a preparation course and professional development program.
- Staff are not required to work for the full duration of the camps. Staffing can be flexible to balance time with students while still having a summer break, so teachers are able to divide the summer weeks to allow for both the ability to support students and earn additional compensation, while also having meaningful time for vacation.
- The new law also establishes additional support for students by creating the Tennessee Accelerated Literacy and Learning Corps (TN ALL Corps), a network of high-quality tutors to assist teachers, schools, school districts, partner organizations, and parents in remediating learning loss throughout the school year.
- Teachers and teacher candidates would have the opportunity to participate in the ALL Corps.

Student Eligibility and Participation

Priority students include students who score at “Approaching” or “Below” in math or reading on their most recent state test or state-approved screener, students who attend a school where less than 50% of students are proficient in math or reading, or students eligible for TANF benefits. Student participation is optional, unless the district adopts a policy that requires participation.

Measuring Student Progress

In an effort to both easily assess the impact of the programs, and reduce testing time during the school year, the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) will establish an innovative benchmark assessment pilot program. This will include the development of an optional Tennessee Universal Math and Universal Reading Screeners, that will be provided to districts for free. Participating students will complete a pre- and post-test using the screeners to measure student progress.

Starting in the 2021-2022 school year, school districts may authorize K-2 teachers to use the results of the Tennessee Universal Math and Universal Reading Screeners as an alternative growth model to generate individual growth scores for teacher evaluations. These assessments can also satisfy the requirements for RTI and dyslexia screeners.



Additional Pathways to Proficiency

Reading on grade-level by the end of third grade is critical for students' long-term success. Starting in the 2022-23 school year there will be additional supports for 3rd grade students who aren't reading at grade-level. This includes access to the summer camps and being assigned a full-time tutor. As a last option, students who are still struggling may be required to repeat the 3rd grade.